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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Karelo-Finnish SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Town of Petrozavodsk

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REFERENCES

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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The town of Petrozavodsk (see sketch, page 4) was badly hit during the last war. It has not yet been fully reconstructed, and gives a generally poor impression, even though some improvements have been made in the center of town. Farther out, conditions are, in the main, bad; the area is dirty and the buildings are almost exclusively low frame structures.
2. The Petrozavodsk station is a single-story frame structure with a ticket office, waiting room, barber shop, and restaurant. On the right-hand side of the station, there are some small shops, a store, and a little market with a bus stop nearby. The platform at the station is asphalted. There are no porters, nor any hotels in the station area.
3. Source has not stayed overnight at a hotel in the city, but the best known is the Severnaya Hotel. Source knows from conversations that a passport must be shown to stay at a hotel, but is not sure what papers must be filled out. Hotel room prices vary from 10 to 15 rubles per day. On the first floor of the hotel is a restaurant which is open from 1300 to 0300 hours. There is music, and the restaurant is usually full, especially with men in uniform.
4. There are two dramatic theaters in the town, the "Russian" and the "National". Plays by Russian dramatists are presented at the Russian Theater. Plays are presented in Finnish at the National, but there are earphones for those who wish to follow in Russian. Prices are not known to source.

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5. There are also two movie theaters in the town, the "Pobeda" and the "Sampo", where Soviet Russian films and films from the Peoples' Democracies are shown. Tickets are priced from three to six rubles.
6. There are few really large businesses in town, only two large stores and a big delicatessen. The shops are nicely appointed, with large show windows. All types of food are available except creamery butter, which is sold only from time to time. There are enough industrial wares, but items such as suits of clothes, woollens, and ladies' shoes are quickly sold out. Food shops are open every day; other shops are closed Mondays. Their hours of business are not known to source.
7. During the day there is quite a bit of traffic on the streets in the center of the town, such as ulitsa Karla Marksa, ulitsa Lenina, and ulitsa Gogolya. At night the streets appear dead, except those in the center of the town. The largest crowds are on the streets on Fridays, when most persons are clad in their "Sunday" best"; the women in summer wear nylon stockings and high-heeled shoes, and in winter wear fur coats or coats with fur collars. Poorly clad people are also seen, however.
8. Only ulitsa Karla Marksa, ulitsa Lenina, and a few other streets in the center of town are asphalt-paved. Some others are paved with uneven stones, but most are dirt and become seas of mud in rainy summer weather. Street signs in town are, as a rule, in both Finnish and Russian. There is lighting in most of the streets in the center of town. Many transformer stations are visible in town. As far as source knows, Petrozavodsk gets its power from the Kondopogo (N 62-12, E 34-18) power station, but source does not know where this is situated. Electric signs are found only at the taxi stands, the "Pobeda" movie theater, and the Severnaya Hotel restaurant.
9. A taxi stand is on Antikaynen Square, but source does not know how many cabs there are.¹ The taxis have a black and white stripe on each side along the rear windows. Fare is two rubles per kilometer.
10. Source noticed two bus routes, one from the railroad station through town to the bath, and one from ulitsa Gogolya and through the town; the latter's route is not known to source. There are stops every 500 to 600 meters; the fare is 10 kopeks from stop to stop. There are no street cars or trolley buses. Quite a few bicycles are seen in town, and also a considerable number of motorcycles, but comparatively little automobile traffic. One can safely cross the street anywhere.
11. The town has two parks; one, Pioneers' Park, is especially intended for children, and is open every day. Here are many flowers, a frame building, which is the summer theater, but no fountains. The other park, the Park of Rest and Culture, is also open daily. It is smaller than the first, but has also a summer theater. There is also a summer restaurant, a volleyball court, a dance floor with a bandstand, and some kiosks. Many people come to the park in nice clothes to enjoy themselves. There are also often drunks there.
12. Police patrolmen are often seen in the streets. Their duty is to maintain peace and order. Military police are not seen, but in the evening the streets are patrolled by three-man teams of one officer and two enlisted men, with armbands. These patrols check military personnel for furlough papers, etc., and take care of any who make trouble. There is a comparatively large number of military men in the town. This is chiefly because the commander of the White Sea Military District, Marshal Meretskov, has his offices and staff concentrated here. Besides this, there is one military installation, the so-called "Seventh Little War Town". A pass is needed to visit this military installation. When one visits the headquarters of the White Sea Military District, the guard telephones the

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person to be visited with an explanation of the reason for the visit. Only then may the guard issue a pass to the visitor, which must be presented to the guard at the entrance to the office to be visited. Source heard that the personnel of the commanding officer's staff headquarters do not live in barracks, but in private quarters. It is also said that in the evening and on days off military personnel may wear civilian clothes, but source does not know to what extent this is carried out.

13. There are always many drunken persons to be seen, both around the railroad station and in the center of town. There is no open prostitution. The town has several hospitals and clinics, but no first aid stations are known to exist. There is also a firehouse, with the usual red fire engines. There are several baths in town; one is at the end of ulitsa Gogolya; source has not visited any.
14. The weather in Petrozavodsk is not unusual for the area; there is much snow in winter and temperatures run as low as -30°C , but the average temperature for winter (November - April/May) is -15° to -20°C . There is much rain in summer, and the average temperature is about 20°C . There is seldom any fog.
1. Comment: In the original wording of paragraphs 8 and 9, it is not clear whether there is only one taxi in Petrozavodsk or more than one.

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PETROZAVODSKLegend

1. Headquarters of the Staff of the White Sea Military District. Large four-story masonry building.
2. Council of Ministers' building on ulitsa Lenina. Large three-story masonry building.
3. Building of Party's Central Committee. Large four-or five-story building.
4. MVD (Militia) building on ulitsa Karla Marksa. Masonry building.
5. Ministry of Finance, Higher Education, Communal Affairs (sic), and Labor Reserves. Large two-story masonry building.
6. Ministry of Agriculture.
7. Severnaya Hotel on ulitsa Lenina. A four-or five-story masonry buildings.
8. Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry. A two-story frame building.
9. Onega Machinery Plant (Metallurgical Plant).
10. Theater on ulitsa Karla Marksa. Masonry building.
11. National Theater. A frame building on ulitsa Gogolya. Productions in Finnish.
12. "Pobeda" movie theater. A masonry building at Antikaynen ploshchad.
13. Statistical Directorate at Kirovskaya ploshchad. A two-story masonry building.
14. Theater under construction at Kirovskaya ploshchad. Opposite the theater, stands are put up for parades, etc., on holidays.
15. Park near Kirovskaya ploshchad.
16. Stadium, near Onega Machinery Plant.
17. Clinic. A two or three-story masonry building.
18. Officers' Home [Club?]. A two-or three-story masonry building.
19. Jail.
20. MGB building. A two-story masonry building.
21. Department store. A two-story masonry building.
22. Post office. A masonry building with three (?) stories.
23. Gastronom and Ministry of Commerce. A two-story masonry building.
24. Military camp No. 7 (?) near ulitsa Uritskiy. In 1940, it consisted of three brick buildings. (This is the "Seventh Little War Town".)
25. School. A three-or four-story masonry building.
26. Pedagogical tekhnikum, 1 May shosse. A two-story masonry building.

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27. University. A three-or four-story masonry building.
28. Pedagogical Institute. A four-or five-story masonry building.
29. Market.
30. Golikovka railroad station.
31. Petrozavodsk railroad station.
32. Museum, masonry building.
33. Bank. A two-story masonry building.
34. Taxi stand, and automobile service station.
35. Combine for the production of prefabricated houses.

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